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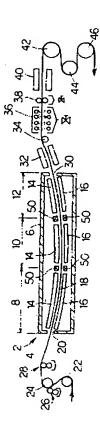
INT.CL.

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TITLE

CONTINUOUS HEAT TREATMENT

FURNACE



ABSTRACT :

PURPOSE: To elevate carrying stability and heating capacity of a strip, and to homogenize its heat treatment, by providing a surface holding device for partially positioning by non-contact a metallic strip running by a catenary system in a heating furnace.

CONSTITUTION: A strip path 18 of a catenary curve is formed by providing chambers 14, 16 on the upper part and the lower part in a continuous heat treatment furnace 2. A running strip 4 is heated to a prescribed temperature by blowing hot blast from nozzles provided on these chambers 14, 16. On one or more suitable positions in a furnace shell 6 of the furnace 2, a strip surface holding device such as a static pressure pad 50 having a slit, etc. is provided symmetrically in the width direction of the strip 4 so as not to contact with the strip 4, and hot blast is jetted toward the inside. As a result, hydrostatic pressure is formed between the strip 4 and the static pressure pad 50, and stable supporting force is worked on the strip 4. According to this device, a distance between the strip 4 and the chambers 14, 16 can be shortened, and the heating capacity is increased.

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